

# MO Thespian Newsletter

Volume 1

May 2010

## Gearing Up for the 2011 Conference

The 2011 Conference is sure to be great! We are bringing back the Parade of Troupes, so be ready to submit your slide! We have looked at all of the conference evaluation forms and are currently doing our best to address any concerns! We are moving to Springfield this year and are pretty excited about the hotel prospects and close proximity to restaurants that MSU will provide. Plus, the hotel we are considering has a hot breakfast INCLUDED! Good news for all!

Information is included about submitting for a Mainstage/One Act production, as well as all calls for requests about next year's conference. We are really interested to hear your (sponsors and students) opinions about guest artists, workshop topics, and other services that conference has to offer. We also hope you will take a moment to consider how you can help make the conference a success, from donating time or money to the All State Show to offering your services and talents to workshops and sponsor duties at conference. With your help and support, we will make this conference the best ever!

**Know your season?  
Email [tnigus@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:tnigus@fz.k12.mo.us)  
to have your shows included  
in the newsletter!**

## Mainstage and One Act Submissions

Submissions for Mainstage and One Act productions are being accepted now! The forms will be changing slightly, so if you are interested in submitting for next year's conference, send an email to Theresa Nigus at [tnigus@fz.k12.mo.us](mailto:tnigus@fz.k12.mo.us). We are looking for two Mainstage shows and several one acts! Feel free to ask any questions you may have about the submission process. We will also be offering a workshop at conference next year for teachers who are interested in exploring the ins and outs of bringing a show to conference. When submitting a Mainstage production, please be aware that we will need at least four weeks' notice to arrange for adjudication. ALL PRODUCTION SUBMISSIONS WILL BE DUE BY SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>!

## Congratulations Oak Park!

Upon reviewing the scores from the Technical Challenge at the 2010 conference, it was discovered that Oak Park had the fastest time for the Knot Tying Event. We apologize for the error, and send congratulations to Oak Park for their accomplishment!

## Calling All Students!

Who would you like to see represented at conference? The State Board is currently looking at guest artists, workshop presenters and universities/vendors for the 2011 conference. Officers, talk to your troupe and bring suggestions to Leadership about the schools you would like to see for scholarship auditions and general information!

## EDTA

A reminder to sponsors that you can access information about all of the positive things the Educational Theatre Association is doing by visiting [www.edta.org](http://www.edta.org). Check TOTS Eat totals, find out about advocacy opportunities, order supplies, and more!

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL THESPIAN FESTIVAL 2010

PLACE: UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN

TIME: JUNE 21 - 26

### MO STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2010

PLACE: MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

DATE: SEPTEMBER 11

BRING YOUR TROUPE OFFICERS FOR A DAY OF LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE INFORMATION.

### MO STATE CONFERENCE 2011

PLACE: MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY (SPRINGFIELD)

DATE: JANUARY 6-8

START PLANNING NOW!

## From Your Student Board:

### Greetings Fellow Thespians!

This is Megan, Schyler, Dakota and Mitch. We are ecstatic about being a part of your state board and planning the 2011 State Conference! We hope to see you this September at Leadership Conference for many exciting activities and top secret information about this year's state conference. We'd love to see you at the International Thespian Festival this June or at the Missouri Fine Arts Academy. Be sure to join the Missouri State Thespian group on Facebook and send us friend requests. We'd love to hear from you!

See you soon!

Megan Richardson

Schyler Tate

Dakota Callaway

Mitch Barrett

## A Note to All Sponsors:

Please make sure you have paid this year's conference fees! Check with Ken Franke if you are unsure about your payment status! Invoices have been sent! While we are on the subject of money – invoices were sent for the All-State camp fees on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please make sure your All-State cast and crew members get all of their fees paid!

## From Debbie Corbin:

There is a new property now available for licensing: THEOPHILUS NORTH, based on Thornton Wilder's last novel. For all those who are fans of Wilder's work, but seeking an alternative to producing *Our Town* (again), I hope they will consider this new Wilder-based play that the New York Sun called "Unmistakably a cousin of *Our Town*." For more information go to [www.TNorththePlay.com](http://www.TNorththePlay.com)

## News and Notes

### \*Announcements from *Jekyll and Hyde!*

We had a great opening rehearsal with the all-state company and are looking forward to seeing them all again on May 8th. Working with students from all over the state, however, communication is key, and as we are working towards building an email address book to include sponsors who have students in the all-state show, some information may not be getting to everyone. Those sponsors that are not getting information and want to ensure that they are "in the loop" regarding all material and announcements going to their students, they can email Brad Rackers or myself (Shayne Daniel) directly to be added to the email roster. Our e-addresses can be found on the Board Members Page of the MO State Thespian Website.

\***Congratulations to Ally Lenhoff from Lee's Summit Community Christian School**, who has been chosen as one of the finalists in the Playworks contest at ITF. The news release is on the EdTA website.

\***The Missouri Arts Council has released a study** about the positive impact of the arts in education. For everyone with arts programs on the line, this may be valuable ammunition for their fight to keep them going. <https://www.missouriartscouncil.org/graphics/assets/documents/b657d9f1adfc.pdf>

## Upcoming Productions

May 6 <sup>th</sup> –8 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Into the Woods</i> (Joplin)
May 7 <sup>th</sup> –9 <sup>th</sup>	Musical Revue (Richmond)
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	One Acts (FZ North)
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	One Acts (FZ South)
May 14 <sup>th</sup> –15 <sup>th</sup>	One Acts (Hazelwood East)
June 24 <sup>th</sup> –26 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Once on this Island</i> (Grandview)

## Honor Troupe Portfolio

(from board member Chad Little):

"To be or not to be an Honor Troupe? That is the question. Whether 'tis nobler for my troupe to suffer the slings and arrows of finding appropriate artifacts or to take arms against a sea of administrators who are thinking of cutting spending on the arts and by having Honor status defeat them."

The past few years we have been growing the number of troupes who are able to become Honor Troupes. In our current economy it is now more important than ever to make each of our ITS Troupes are recognized as a group that is a strong member of the community and successful helping students establish positive character traits that benefit society. The hurdles we must jump to become an Honor Troupe are the things that can prove to our administrators that we bring value to our school and community. When the community recognizes your troupe as a group who strives to help and give to the community they will be more likely to fight for your and your department should the need arise.

This year we are asking each Troupe that is applying for Honor status to provide a portfolio instead of just an envelope of documents. This portfolio is not just another hurdle. It will be something you can share with your administrators, the school board, parents, and other sponsors. It should be an organized showcase for what you do throughout the school year to impact the community, the school and the lives of your students, a theatre yearbook of sorts. The books will be labeled and on display at conference for sponsors to look through and discover what other troupes are doing to advocate the importance of live theatre in their communities. After the sponsor meeting at conference you will be able to pick up your portfolio and take it home with you. Our goal is to give you another weapon in your arsenal to combat budget cuts that are too deep to keep your program alive.

Details on the portfolio will soon be found on the Missouri Thespians website. In the meantime get your historian, secretary, communications officer or all of your student board members to start collecting photos, programs and flyers of the things you have been doing since January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010! If any of your troupe members at large enjoy scrap booking maybe they would want to take the lead on this project!! Inductions and appointment of new officers are quickly approaching and would be a great page in your portfolio show that you have inducted at least 5 new members.

## Addressing Your Concerns:

A big concern we hear from sponsors is about the timing of the conference. This was especially relevant this year with the snow problems that so many troupes encountered. This issue has been debated for years. I asked Jennifer Forrest James to put together a list of concerns about the timing of the conference:

**August-October** - Too soon in the school year. Many of us struggle to get needed information in on time for a January conference. The earlier deadlines prove problematic. Also, universities are in session and not willing to take on the conference.

**November** - Most schools have their fall productions in this month. In addition weather can be an issue (which is the main reason many state for moving the conference date) and Thanksgiving Break would take a possible weekend out. Also, universities are still in session.

**December** - Many schools have finals that month. Weather is as much an issue in this month as it would be in January. Also, universities are still in session.

**February** - Most schools have their Winter/Spring productions this month. In addition weather is as much an issue in this month as it is in January. Also, universities are still in session.

**March** - MSHSAA Speech, Debate, and Theatre districts are held on different weekends around the state (taking out a large number of delegates who are involved in their programs at school) as well as NFL Districts (same reason as MSHSAA). Also, universities are still in session.

**April** - State EOC exams would probably mean many school districts would not allow their high schools to attend. In addition a weekend would be taken out for the MSHSAA State Competition. Also, universities are still in session.

**May** - Too late in the year - especially since Seniors often get released early. Finals exams.

**June** - ITF, plus not in the school year

**July** - not in the school year - plus Black Out Dates

## 2010 Thespian Festival

June 21–26, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Join us for the best week of high school theatre in the country. The Thespian Festival features more than fifty productions presented by schools from throughout North America and abroad. Plus: a full schedule of workshops presented by theatre professionals, individual performance events, a student playwriting program, opportunities to audition for college and university representatives and for Thespian scholarships, and a chance to hang out with 2,000 or so other Thespians. Don't miss out. It's a blast!

For more information visit [www.edta.org](http://www.edta.org)